

# Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

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# Weekly Update

## Governor directs training funds to help displaced RV workers

August 20, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels announced the state will immediately make \$3 million in training grants available to employees in the recreational vehicle industry and suppliers who have lost their jobs because of plant layoffs or closings.

The governor also called U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine Chao this week about the state's request for additional National Emergency Grant funding to further help displaced RV workers.

"There are opportunities for those who are ready, willing and able to obtain the skills and training needed for good-paying jobs in the nearby and fast-growing orthopedics industry," said Daniels. The governor was in Elkhart to meet with RV industry leaders in Northern Indiana to assess the status of the industry.

In the Warsaw area, the state Department of Workforce Development (DWD), Ivy Tech Community College and local business officials estimate there are several hundred immediate job openings. Many of the jobs pay as much or more than those in the RV industry and require certificates in CNC machining, welding or an associate degree in advanced manufacturing. Jobs for metal polishers, quality control and supervisors also are available and the region has need for other positions such as respiratory therapists and network and computer administrators.

Daniels has directed DWD to immediately make \$3 million of federal training funds available to displaced workers. Those eligible can receive up to \$6,000 to enter a program to earn an associate degree or industry-recognized certificate in a program that is connected to high-need occupations, and efforts will be made to enroll students in programs that are connected to job openings in the region.

Displaced workers apply for the financial assistance, called an Individual Training Account, at a WorkOne center. Once approved, an individual may enter a program for training with an education provider approved by the Department of Workforce Development. The amount of funding received will depend on the training or degree program, but will not exceed \$6,000.

Last week, the governor instructed DWD to apply for a National Emergency Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to provide more training assistance to displaced workers in the RV industry. Demand for the industry's products has decreased in recent months because of rising gas prices and an ongoing national credit crunch. These funds are discretionary grants given by the Secretary of Labor in response to significant worker dislocation events such as natural disasters or large plant layoffs. So far this year, similar grants have been awarded to Indiana to help workers affected by the closing of ATA in Indianapolis and the June storms and flooding. The grant would be used to train more RV workers, to add staff to the WorkOne center in Elkhart and to hire more career counseling experts.

[Read the Release](#)



August 20, 2008- Governor Daniels stopped for lunch at the Charger House in Ligonier to visit with local residents.

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

## Governor directs flood assistance to needed areas

August 21, 2008— Governor Mitch Daniels has announced he will direct the first \$10 million of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to help local cities, towns or counties acquire homes impacted from June flooding and develop the property into community green space.

"These funds will assist with the long-term recovery efforts many communities are facing in the aftermath of a devastating event," said Andy Miller, director of the Indiana Office of Disaster Recovery. "This is a needed and beneficial first step, and we will continue to pursue additional funding to help meet the needs of affected Hoosiers."

The CDBG funding is provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and represents a portion of the supplemental funding Congress appropriated in July for emergency disaster assistance in the Mid-western states affected by recent storms. It will be administered by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority through an acquisition program that will allow local units of government to purchase flood damaged homes located in a flood plain and develop the property into permanent green space for community use. The voluntary program must be initiated by a local community and be agreed to by individual homeowners. Interested communities must submit a grant application to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). Once a property is approved for purchase, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will cover 75 percent of the acquisition cost with the remaining 25 percent to be paid by the local unit of government, which can use CDBG funding to offset its match requirement.

Priority will be given to communities with the greatest needs considering the concentration of affected individuals and financial need of each local unit of government. Grant applications for the acquisition program and CDBG match funds will be available from IDHS beginning August 27.

Here are some additional updates on the state's disaster recovery progress:

- More than 17,000 Hoosiers have applied for Individual Assistance through FEMA resulting in the delivery of more than \$110 million. Approximately 12,000 individuals have been referred to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for low-interest loans and/or other FEMA assistance. Those who have unmet needs may call FEMA at 1-800-621-3362 or contact one of the long-term recovery committees that have been established in many counties. These committees are funded in many cases by United Way and members are local leaders, case managers and other volunteers. A list of these committees can be found at [www.emergency.in.gov](http://www.emergency.in.gov).
- Nearly 400 local units of government or qualifying not-for-profit organizations have submitted requests for public assistance. FEMA estimates that total public assistance funds will exceed \$150 million.
- IDHS has retained Witt & Associates to provide contract resources to aid the state in administering FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) process and the IDHS hazard mitigation program. The company will work under the supervision of IDHS staff and help local units of government understand the PA process and maximize the amount of federal funding brought to the state. Witt & Associates is a national firm founded by former FEMA Administrator James Lee Witt that specializes in aiding states in the disaster recovery process.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that 2 percent to 3 percent of affected total acres of Indiana farmland may be abandoned or not harvested. Although the percent of abandoned acres for corn at 4.5 percent and soybeans at 0.9 percent is more than twice the percentage of 2007, this is still well below the 7 to 9 percent flooded estimate in June, indicating many acres were replanted or had at least partially recovered.

Did you know...

**...new pictures are added to Governor Daniels' photo gallery every week? Click [here](#) for more!**

## **Racing Supplier to Build New Manufacturing Center in Indiana**

Aug. 28, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels joined executives from motorsports safety equipment supplier Impact Racing LLC to announce the company's plans to expand its Indiana manufacturing operations in Clermont, creating more than 100 jobs by 2011.

The company, which manufactures fire suits, helmets, restraints, racing shoes and other motorsports safety equipment for drivers and race teams in the Indy Racing League, NASCAR and NHRA, will invest more than \$3.7 million to construct a 20,000-square-foot facility to manufacture uniforms for race teams, motorsports officials and other industries.

"Motorsports companies like Impact Racing are finding that our talent base and central location make Indiana a great choice for new job creating investment like this," said Daniels.

Impact, which currently employs approximately 120 throughout the Indianapolis area, will begin hiring production workers, sales associates and graphic designers in 2009 to coincide with the opening of the new facility in late 2009. The new manufacturing facility will be the first tenant in the 23-acre Lost Drive-In Motorsports Park, located along U.S. Highway 136 across from O'Reilly Raceway Park.

"I am excited about the expansion of Impact Racing and the opening of the Lost Drive-In Motorsports Park," said Bill Simpson, founder and president of Impact Racing. "Indiana is the racing capital of the world with the Indianapolis 500, the Allstate 400, the inaugural running of the Red Bull Indianapolis GP race and the Mac Tool US Nationals, it only seems reasonable to have your business here."

The company, which also has operations in North Carolina and California, will be the first motorsports manufacturer in the country to use sublimation embroidery technology to create custom apparel. The technology is a more cost effective technique that produces a three-dimensional printing similar to traditional embroidery.

## **EnerDel batteries will power hybrid, electric cars**

Aug. 21, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels joined executives from lithium-ion battery developer EnerDel to announce plans to locate the company's new global manufacturing and development operations in Indianapolis, a move that is expected to create more than 850 new jobs across the state through 2012.

The developer of lithium-ion batteries for hybrid, plug-in electric and electric vehicles will expand its Indianapolis research and cell production center, build and equip a battery pack assembly center in nearby Noblesville, and locate a full-scale manufacturing operation at a still to be selected location in the Hoosier state.

"Eight hundred fifty jobs of any kind is great news. When those jobs are in a technology of tomorrow, like electric cars, it offers the prospect of even bigger news to follow. Indiana has what it takes to lead this automotive revolution and today is step one," said Daniels.

Part of Ener1, Inc., (AMEX: HEV), EnerDel currently operates a 92-person production facility on the northeast side of Indianapolis and plans to begin hiring additional engineers, production associates and administrative staff later this year.

EnerDel, founded in 2004, develops lithium-ion batteries for automotive manufacturers that are lighter, occupy less space, provide more power and have a longer life than the nickel metal hydride batteries found in today's hybrid vehicles.

"Indiana is the heart of America's manufacturing might, and a linchpin in the automotive industry. There is no better place to invest in the clean, green, energy efficient technology we need to power today's global economy," said Ulrik Grape, president and chief executive officer of EnerDel. "Indiana's educated, experienced workforce is second to none, and the enthusiastic commitment we have received from Governor Daniels and other leaders is absolutely unparalleled. We couldn't be happier to call this our home."

**Did you know...**

**...Governor Daniels' recent audio is available online?  
Log on and listen in [here](#)!**



## Manufacturer to Boost Production of Fuel-Efficient Technology in North Central Indiana

Aug 20, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels joined executives from automotive supplier Millennium Industries today to announce the company's plans to expand its headquarters and manufacturing operations here, creating more than 170 new jobs by 2011.

The company, which manufactures fuel rails and power steering components for original equipment manufacturers in the automotive industry, will invest more than \$9.2 million to upgrade equipment and add 30,000 square feet of production and warehouse space at its North Main Street facility.

"The 170 new jobs Millennium plans to add in the coming years is great news, but it's the technology these new associates will manufacture that has the most far-reaching impact," said Daniels.

The expansion will make room for the company's direct injection fuel system manufacturing operations, a move that will make the north central Indiana facility the leading manufacturer in the United States of the technology that allows automakers to make smaller engines without compromising power.

Founded in 1997, the company employs more than 250 at its Indiana facility and plans to begin hiring additional production associates maintenance technicians and supervisory associates in the first quarter of 2009 to prepare for a new production line scheduled to open later in the year.

"This project is a great example of the public and private sectors working together to retain and create new jobs in Indiana and the United States," said Robert Vollmar president and chief executive officer of Millennium Industries. "We thank both the state and local governments for their support in making this project a reality."

Millennium Industries current production capacity is more than five million fuel rails and three million power steering components annually, Vollmar said.

## Ride with the Governor

Join Governor Daniels on this year's charity ride, a two day escorted ride through scenic southern Indiana to benefit the National Guard Relief Fund. After departing the State House, the ride will make stops in Spencer, Bloomington, Shoals, French Lick, Jasper and Washington. [Learn More >>](#)



*August 20, 2008- Governor Daniels joined workers from automotive supplier Millennium Industries to announce the company's plans to expand its headquarters and manufacturing operations in Ligonier, creating more than 170 new jobs by 2011.*



*August 20, 2008- Governor Daniels toured Millennium Industries' Ligonier facilities during an announcement that the company planned to expand its operations, creating more than 170 new jobs by 2011.*

## What's Happening In My County

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....Governor Daniels' INShape Indiana program. [Log on](#) and lighten up!